GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3404
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
SATELLITE TELEPHONE SYSTEM IN INACCESSIBLE AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to install satellite telephone systems in inaccessible villages across the country where even wireless telephony is out of reach;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages selected for this purpose, State-wise;

(d) the number of villages/areas where this satellite system is currently in operation State-wise;

(e) the time by when that said system is likely to be installed in the rest of the inaccessible villages/areas; and

(f) the estimated expenditure for this purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER O F STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS ANDINFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the provision of 14,183 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals in undisputed, inaccessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 as per Census 1991 which otherwise cannot be covered by any terrestrial technology including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). The Telecom. Circle/State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(d) As on 30-06-2005, 294 villages are provided with telecom facility by International Mobile Satellite (INMARSAT) Terminals as per details given in the Annexure.

(e) All these villages are to be provided with Satellite telephones progressively by November, 2007.

(f) The estimated expenditure for the provision of 14,183 Satellite telephones is around Rs. 105.72 crores.

Annexure

Telecom Circle/State-wise details of number of villages Provided with telecom facility with INMARSAT Terminals As on 30-06-2005 and no. of villages to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom. Circle/State	No. of villages to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals	No. of villages provided with telecom facility with INMARSAT Terminals as on 30-06-2005#
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	--	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	115	1
3.	Assam	279	18
4.	Chhattisgarh	88	7
5.	Haryana	--	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	275	17
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	465	98
8.	Karnataka	--	24
9.	Madhya Pradesh	433	--
10.	Jharkhand	1694	--
11.	Maharashtra	496	--

12.	North East-I		
	Meghalaya	500	5
	Mizoram	20	3
	Tripura	58	3
13.	North East-II		
	Arunachal Pradesh	543	21
	Nagaland	16	9
	Manipur	730	8
14.	Orissa	4899	--
15.	Rajasthan	18	1
16.	Tamil Nadu	--	33
17.	Uttaranchal	3544	18
18.	West Bengal	--	19
	Total:	14183	294

#Note: INMARSAT terminals working in 294 villages were already provided with satellite phones before signing o f agreements between USO & BSNL. These 294 number of satellite terminals are not included in 14,183 villages mentioned in Column 3.
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